

Earthquake in M.P.

1508. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the gravity of the earthquake occurred on 22nd May, 1997 in Narmada Valley region of Madhya Pradesh and the quantum of properties and lives lost therein;

(b) the names of villages, development blocks and wards with the names of towns of such occurrence;

(c) whether any study team from the Centre has visited the site of the earthquake;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the compensation being given to the sufferers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) An earthquake of magnitude 6.0 (on Richter scale) occurred on 22nd May, 1997 with epicentre around 23.1° N, Long.:80.1° E. As a result, 39 human lives were lost and about 1.65 lakhs houses damaged.

(b) The earthquake was felt at Jabalpur, Panagar, Sehora, Senoi, Mandla, Damoh, Bhopal, Panna, Chhatarpur, Satna, Shahdol, Rewa, Raipur, Bilaspur, Rajendragoon, Ambikapur, Gwalior, Gund, and Dewas towns affecting 67 wards and 386 villages.

(c) to (e) The teams from India Meteorological Department, Geological Survey of India and National Geophysical Research Institute visited the earthquake affected areas and set up portable instruments to record aftershock activities. The Ministry of Agriculture deputed a Central Team for assessing the requirements of relief and rehabilitation. On the basis of the report of the Central Team, the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) has assessed the relief requirements at Rs. 55.36 crores and decided to release Rs. 45.26 crores from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) and Rs. 10.10 crores as advance from State Calamity Relief Fund (SCRFF) for 1997-98. The funds as recommended by NCRC were released to the Government of Madhya Pradesh on 26/6/1997 to provide compensation and relief to the sufferers.

In addition, the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment and Ministry of Textiles have contributed, as follows :

Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment :

- (i) A total amount of Rs. 29.12 crores as loan has been sanctioned by HUDCO for construction of 2925 housing units and repair of 8650 units in Jabalpur.

- (ii) HUDCO will provide Rs. 1.00 crore for establishing 5 building centres in the State. HUDCO would be giving assistance for putting-up Model houses of various sizes in each of the building centres.

Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment

An amount of Rs. 4.00 crores has been released for reconstructing 2500 houses in the districts of Jabalpur, Seoni, Mandla, Chhindwara.

Ministry of Textile

An amount of Rs. 2.00 crores has been sanctioned to the affected weavers. In addition, an amount of Rs. 2.95 lakhs has also been released to the State Government under the Health Package Scheme for providing spectacles and testing of eyes of the handloom weavers.

[English]

Weight of Parcels

1509. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government attention has been invited to the news-item captioned 'Vajan Rakhnei per Hota hai Parcelon ka Vajan' appearing in the "Nav Bharat Times" dated 28, May 1997";

(b) if so, whether Government have inquired into the matter and the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Vigilance Department against the corrupt practices of booking parcels in the railways during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the procedure for booking of parcels at New Delhi and Delhi Stations, the party can approach the booking clerk directly or through the Forwarding and Clearing Agents to book their parcels. These Agents are authorised to help the customers in booking and clearance of traffic.

The complaint was investigated and a large number of merchants were contacted. However, none of them reported any such complaints against the agents. Further, no complaint has been received regarding harassment in booking or clearance of parcel or any merchant being compelled to approach any agent for booking their traffic.

(c) 58 preventive checks were conducted in parcel offices at Delhi and New Delhi during the year 1996-97 as a result of which 10 corrupt staff were taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules.